

Florida

SOURCE: Florida Administrative Code, Chapter 62-302 Surface Water Quality Standards, effective December 26, 1996: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/surfacewater/rules.htm> and <http://www8.myflorida.com/environment/learn/science/laboratories/index.html>

62-302.200 Definitions.

- (10)"Exceptional Ecological Significance" shall mean that a water body is a part of an ecosystem of unusual value. The exceptional significance may be in unusual species, productivity, diversity, ecological relationships, ambient water quality, scientific or educational interest, or in other aspects of the ecosystem's setting or processes.
- (15)"Nuisance Species" shall mean species of flora or fauna whose noxious characteristics or presence in sufficient number, biomass, or areal extent may reasonably be expected to prevent, or unreasonably interfere with, a designated use of those waters.
- (16)"Nursery Area of Indigenous Aquatic Life" shall mean any bed of the following aquatic plants, either in monoculture or mixed: *Halodule wrightii*, *Halophila* spp., *Potamogeton* spp. (pondweed), *Ruppia maritima* (widgeon-grass), *Sagittaria* spp. (arrowhead), *Syringodium filiforme* (manatee-grass), *Thalassia testudinum* (turtle grass), or *Vallisneria* spp. (eel-grass), or any area used by the early-life stages, larvae and post-larvae, of aquatic life during the period of rapid growth and development into the juvenile states.
- (17)"Outstanding Florida Waters" shall mean waters designated by the Environmental Regulation Commission as worthy of special protection because of their natural attributes.
- (18)"Outstanding National Resource Waters" shall mean waters designated by the Environmental Regulation Commission that are of such exceptional recreational or ecological significance that water quality should be maintained and protected under all circumstances, other than temporary lowering and the lowering allowed under Section 316 of the Federal Clean Water Act.
- (22)"Propagation" shall mean reproduction sufficient to maintain the species' role in its respective ecological community.
- (24)"Shannon-Weaver Diversity Index" shall mean: negative summation (from $i=1$ to s) of $(n_i / N) \log_2 (n_i / N)$ where s is the number of species in a sample, N is the total number of individuals in a sample, and n_i is the total number of individuals in species i .
- (25)"Special Waters" shall mean water bodies designated in accordance with Section 62-302.700, F.A.C., by the Environmental Regulation Commission for inclusion in the Special Waters Category of Outstanding Florida Waters, as contained in Section 62-302.700, F.A.C. A Special Water may include all or part of any water body.

62-302.400 Classification of Surface Waters, Usage, Reclassification, Classified Waters.

- (1) All surface waters of the State have been classified according to designated uses as follows:
CLASS III Recreation, Propagation and Maintenance of a Healthy, Well-Balanced Population of Fish and Wildlife
- (4) Water quality classifications are arranged in order of the degree of protection required, with Class I water having generally the most stringent water quality criteria and Class V the least. However, Class I, II, and III surface waters share water quality criteria established to protect recreation and the propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife.

Excerpt from 62-302.530, Criteria for Surface Water Quality Classifications

Parameter	Units	Class I: Potable Water Supply	Class II: Shellfish Propagation or Harvesting	Class III: Recreation, Propagation and Maintenance of a Health, Well- balanced Population of Fish and Wildlife		Class IV: Agricultural Water Supplies	Class V: Navigation , Utility, and Industrial Use
				Predominantly Fresh Waters	Predominantly Marine Waters		
11) Biological Integrity	Percent reduction of Shannon- Weaver Diversity Index	The Index for benthic macro- invertebrates shall not be reduced less than 75% of background levels measured using organisms retained by a U. S. Standard No. 30 sieve and collected and composited from a minimum of three Hester- Dendy type artificial substrate samplers of 0.10 to 0.15 m2 area each, incubated for a period of four weeks.	The Index for benthic macro- invertebrates shall not be reduced to less than 75% of established background levels as measured using organisms retained by a U. S. Standard No. 30 sieve and collected and composited from a minimum of three natural substrate samples, taken with Ponar type samplers with minimum sampling area of 225 cm2.	The Index for benthic macro- invertebrates shall not be reduced to less than 75% of established background levels as measured using organisms retained by a U. S. Standard No. 30 sieve and collected and composited from a minimum of three Hester- Dendy type artificial substrate samplers of 0.10 to 0.15 m2 area each, incubated for a period of four weeks.	The Index for benthic macro- invertebrates shall not be reduced to less than 75% of established background levels as measured using organisms retained by a U. S. Standard No. 30 sieve and collected and composited from a minimum of three natural substrate samples, taken with Ponar type samplers with minimum sampling area of 225 cm2.		

62-302.800 Site Specific Alternative Criteria.

- (2) The affirmative demonstration required by this section shall mean a documented showing that the proposed alternative criteria would exist due to natural background conditions or man-induced conditions which cannot be controlled or abated. Such demonstration shall be based upon relevant factors which include:
- (c) A description of the historical and existing biology, including variations, which may be affected by the parameter of concern. Conditions in similar water bodies may be used for comparison.